



Melissa McNally

Statement of Candidacy

Region II Director

My name is Melissa McNally, and I am seeking nomination for Region II Director for NAEMT.

Since my involvement with NAEMT, I realize what an integral role the organization plays in the profession of emergency medical services. EMS has been approaching a crossroad, and as we try to navigate through the changes facing both pre-hospital services as well as hospital based healthcare, EMS providers will be faced with expanding their role in order to advance the profession. EMS was traditionally a transportation benefit, but now we have the opportunity to grow pre-hospital care to an integrated healthcare delivery system while still providing the same traditional practices of emergency services.

I have learned that EMS professionals face challenges above and beyond the expected job day. Today our providers have far many more hurdles than just providing good clinical care. Now payer and billing compliance, workforce shortages, training constraints, provider burnout, and mental illness stand between the boots on the ground providers. Over the last 2 years I have had the opportunity to work with other EMS professionals on addressing the critical problems facing first responders today and it is my intention to continue this fight to improve the profession of EMS.

With NAEMT I have been given a platform to pursue initiatives and projects that I feel will make an impact on the organization and the providers that we represent. One initiative is to evolve Telehealth in EMS as well as expanding the alternative ways patients find access to care. Telehealth has allowed agencies to provide medical and psycho-social care to the vulnerable patient populations across the country without physical presence. Expanding access to care to include alternative destinations will help the growing issues our emergency departments are facing, while insuring those patients who need critical care will have access to it.

I also want to continue to advocate for alternative payment models that not only provide payment for Telehealth, but also for treat-in-place and alternative destination care. It is essential that we ensure agencies are provided payment because we know that this is critical to ensure services are available when someone calls 911.

I also have a mission to help regions expand grass root advocacy programs in their own states. Doing so will help organize, mobilize, and engage our current workforce and new incoming providers to promote the delivery of high quality, patient centered care; to advocate for what we do and how we do it.

Finally, I would like to ensure and advocate for excellence for our initial education programs. It is crucial that while we acknowledge the hurdles that our current programs face we maintain a high quality standard to ensure our emerging providers are critical thinking, clinically competent providers.